

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

August 17, 2005

Handouts

CALFED Ops Group Operations Briefing Package, dated August 17, 2005; Tracy Pettit, DWR.

Preliminary B2 Accounting spreadsheet, October 2004-April 2005; Peggy Manza, USBR.

Announcements

DWR announced that Tom Glover will be leaving the Department at the end of August, and Stephen Kashiwada will be retiring at the end of November.

SWRCB Activities

The Board has received the report on the effects of JPOD on south Delta water levels. The Board has also received, and is processing, four petitions which were sent in response to the Board's acceptance of the Water Quality Response Plan for JPOD.

A workshop on flexing the Delta outflow objective is scheduled for August 31 at 9 a.m. in the Sierra Room at the CalEPA building.

A workshop on the Cease and Desist Order is scheduled for October 24 at 9 a.m. Notices of Intent to Appear are due to the Board on Thursday, September 8.

Gita Kapahi announced a Yuba short-term transfer which should be out this week, and a long-term MID transfer due out by the end of August.

On-Going Activities Related to the Ops Group

Joint Point of Diversion – Status of Response Plans

The Water Quality and Water Level Response Plans are both long-term plans. The JPOD effects report required by the WLRP was submitted to the SWRCB on August 11 and is being reviewed. The WQRP was accepted July 1, but as noted above, four petitions have been filed in response. (The acceptance letter requires another submittal in October 2006.)

The draft Fishery Protection Plan is still being reviewed by the fish agencies prior to submittal to the Board. (The goal is to make this FPP a long-term plan as well.)

Fishery Status

Invasive species, contaminants, and water project operations are all being looked at as potential causes for the pelagic organism decline. The Governor's office has required an action plan to be released; it is in draft form now.

Chinook

Winter-run adult carcass figures are higher this year, and it appears the number of redds are three times last year's. The tributaries show an increase in Spring-run adults above the 5-year average. National Marine Fisheries Service has come out with critical habitat designations for Winter-run and Spring-run salmon in the Central Valley.

Steelhead

This year's salvage of juveniles at the pumps has decreased. The number of adults on the American River is about average. (Critical habitat designations for steelhead are still in progress.)

Delta Smelt

An independent science review of the OCAP Biological Opinion is being conducted through CalFed. A six-member panel, two of whom are from California, anticipate completion in December. A workshop is scheduled for October. This review will not "second-guess" the Biological Opinion; the panel will review the science behind the opinion but will not evaluate the conclusion.

The summer townet number wasn't very good. Two more trawl surveys will be done to see if this might be a "late" year. Biologists rely on the fall mid-water trawl, which starts in September. Preliminary data may be presented at next month's CalFed Ops meeting.

Work Group Activities

DAT Update

The DAT will resume October 1.

OFF Update

Nothing to report.

WOMT Update

For the SWRCB workshop on August 31, the WOMT agencies are drafting a letter to the SWRCB presenting their opinion on flexing the Port Chicago Delta outflow objective.

Tina Swanson (of the Bay Institute) requests that WOMT distribute meeting notes to stakeholders, documenting major decisions, and has asked for a response at the next CalFed Ops meeting.

Operations Status

The CalFed Ops Group Operations Briefing package was discussed.

CVP - Keswick is currently releasing 10,000 cfs. The temperature compliance point has moved upstream from Jelly's Ferry to Balls Ferry. Clear Creek is at 120 cfs. Nimbus Dam is releasing 3000 cfs to conserve the cold water pool. New Melones is releasing 250 cfs for dissolved oxygen compliance. (B2 water is being used to sustain flow when the dissolved oxygen objective is not controlling.) The USBR is pumping full-bore in the Delta, and the federal share of San Luis Reservoir is approaching 400 TAF.

SWP – Delta salinity is okay, and the Delta continues to be in excess conditions. Feather River releases are 4000 cfs. Storage at Oroville is approximately 3.14 MAF. The State is pumping 7180 cfs in the Delta. The extra 500 cfs is reducing the EWA debt and will continue through the end of September. Starting October 1, the pumping rate will return to 6680 cfs, including transfers. The State share of San Luis Reservoir is greater than 800 TAF. We expect to be at just over 1 MAF in the base case.

October is the next window for cross-valley canal transfers. There's an excellent chance of filling San Luis Reservoir early. Article 21 water is offered when the base case (which counts in EWA water owed) is full. Since July 1, the additional 500 cfs has reduced the EWA debt by 44 cfs, bringing the debt to approximately 200 TAF.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The next regular CalFed Ops meeting will be held on September 28, 2005, in Room 1131 of the Resources Building. There will be an update on B2 banking and B2 accounting, and the American River standard will also be discussed. (VAMP results may be presented at the October meeting.)